



# San Diego City Attorney CASEY GWINN

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **San Diego Contractor Agrees to Settle Suit Over Zoning Violations**

**San Diego, CA (July 16, 1999)** -- Echo Pacific Construction, Inc., a licensed general contractor, has agreed to pay \$144,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by the City Attorney's Code Enforcement Unit, alleging the illegal use of property to build 200 portable classrooms for San Diego City Schools. The property, located at 408 Hollister Street, is within the City's Agricultural, Flood Plain Fringe, and California Coastal zones, which do not permit such construction activity. Echo Pacific leased the property last November for the sole purpose of constructing the classrooms.

The Code Enforcement lawsuit alleged violations of the San Diego Municipal Code and Unfair Business Practices. The \$144,000 settlement includes a \$134,000 penalty and \$10,000 in attorneys fees and other costs. The company has until the end of August to remove the classrooms and clean up the property.

"This case is an example of protecting the City's agricultural or open space resources and ensuring fair business practices within the City of San Diego," City Attorney Casey Gwinn said. "The community was concerned about the condition of the property. The City of San Diego's Neighborhood Code Compliance inspectors and our Code Enforcement Unit listened to those concerns and took action."

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